The Boat Company 1730 M Street, N.W. Suite 204 Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 338-8055

March 31, 2004

Michael Hokana, Transport Analyst Maritime Administration Office of Ports & Domestic Shipping 400 Seventh Street, S.W. Room 7201 / MAR-830 Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Heron

MARAD #: 2004-17399

Dear Mr. Hokana:

Mr. Grant Miller, whom we know, called us to discuss his application for a Waiver for the vessel *Heron*.

Based on his assertion that he does not intend to use the vessel in Southeast Alaska to carry "passengers for hire" but rather for oceanographic research and marine surveys, we have no objection to your agency granting the *Heron* a Waiver, provided it is used solely for the purpose he has applied for.

Sincerely,

Michael A. McIntosh, President

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